**1 Corinthians 3:10-23 (ESV)**

**10**  According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13**  each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. **16**  Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple. **18**  Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” **20** and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” **21** So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, **23** and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

**“Honoring The Foundation”**

 Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. When a child plays with blocks, they are learning a very important lesson. The reaction is for a child just to start building. Yet, after a few times of having to watch their creations fall to pieces. The answer is not the building, but first on what they are to build. A soft bed vs. a smooth floor has two different outcomes. Foundations then are important for life. Sacrifice built this country, but the constitution is what helps us define freedom. Marriage does take work, but underneath is a gift of love God gave for a man and a woman. Rather than building and being busy, like a child, we need to consider the foundations.

 Of course, our culture, world, and even the church have lost what it means to stand before God’s holiness. Sinners really are not able to come to God in any old way we see fit. Paul made that clear to the Corinthian Christians saying, “each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire…” Jesus shows how the Law makes this final verdict against us, “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Since none is perfect, other plans had to be made for sinners. Rather than coming before God, God made His holiness to be at home with us. Look at the foundation for you are God’s temple built on Jesus Christ.

1. **When building gets the attention all holiness is up**

**for grabs.**

1. You can have a wrong foundation, but we are still going to build!
2. In Corinth there was plenty of busyness be it with over 12 temples to various gods, refined philosophies about life, or just worldly affairs of Roman living.
3. To Paul these other basis were more like quick sand to the church, “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
4. Spirituality today is man-made holiness that we easily buy into only to miss Jesus and His Word.
5. A neglected foundation means we are just ignoring the cracks!
6. A little paint hardly covered up the immorality and false teaching that threatened the church.
7. Paul saw the baptized at Corinth to be inviting unrepentant sin and at last judgment for, “If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him.”
8. Defiling life or rejecting scriptural truth is death for a church or a Christian, because it is outside of God’s holiness given in Christ.

1. Finally, an unappealing foundation can make us want to build something more attractive!
2. The temple of Aphrodite offered a way of love and Roman wisdom was the best of human reason.
3. Yet, Paul would not buy into what the Corinthian Christians considered so wonderful saying, “Let no one deceive himself.”
4. Everyone has some wisdom to share today, but it often is at the expense of God’s glory, which is Christ and Him crucified.
5. **Beneath the all building is the only foundation for God’s temple**.
6. Jesus is the foundation that is all holiness from God.
7. The Holy Word became flesh to dwell among us.
8. Where others were to fear the Lord Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)
9. He alone was the true temple who by baptism brought, “the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matt 3:11).
10. Jesus is the foundation that grounds us in His holiness.
11. All the cracks in life or bad opinions, God does not see for Christ comes to make you perfect by His life.
12. By His death and resurrection, Jesus claims God’s judgment to turn destruction now into hearing sins forgiven.
13. Since we are God’s temple, we are holy because of Jesus and His Word despite what fires burn up our works.
14. Jesus is the foundation that shapes us in the way of holiness.
15. His love is holiness drawing near to builds us up as living stones by His Word and Sacrament.
16. His truth is holiness of the cross so there is no deception only the defeat of sin, death, and the Devil.
17. His Church is no building, but those baptized into His Name that He takes delight over on earth.
18. **The foundation laid in Christ lets God’s Spirit dwell in His temple.**
19. The Spirit helps us get rid of a worldly wisdom.
20. Humanity sets the standards in any age and God knows the better answer always comes by His Gospel.
21. To glory in men is to enslave ourselves to men while the glory of God is to be free in Christ.
22. The Spirit builds us up to know all things are yours.
23. Whoever it be as servants of the church, they will do their part with no need to cut and paste.
24. Whatever happens in the world, you have God’s love. Whatever of life, you have the good that will see you through. Whatever of death to face, it now serves us to be in heaven.
25. Whenever we deal with the present and future, fear must die to God’s faithfulness at all times.
26. The Spirit keeps us confident only in Christ.
27. As a holy temple, claiming ownership does not come by our efforts or will.
28. The baptized belong to Christ, so as His temple He will take care of us and we can honor Him.

 Everything has some kind of foundation, but none of it is fitting for the church. The Father in heaven gave the unchanging basis to be upon His Son. What Paul preached of Christ and Him crucified is foolishness good enough to save sinners. The true quality of life is to honor Christ. God has served us with a perfect love and so we love as His people with things that last. Look at the foundation for you are God’s temple built on Jesus Christ. Amen. Now the peace of Christ that passes all understanding be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.